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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947

PALESTINE

FILE NO. 782

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61871

**CLOSED
UNTIL**

1978

61871

1947

E

E 782

2

PALESTINE

JAN

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 782/782/31

D.O.
Command.

23 Jan 1947

Recruitment for Palestine Police Force

H/C OTTAWA SAVING N° 5 of Jan 6.

Inform, has consulted Canadian Authorities, and as a result, has come to the conclusion that any recruitment campaign in Canada would not be likely to produce any worth while results.

Last Paper.

N° P.P.

(Minutes.)

N.B. 25/11

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61871

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

SB 7627/11

19/8/48

Next Paper.

E 4919

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61871**

Eastern Dept - K Entered 3

E 7821

RECEIVED
13 JAN 1947

JAN 10 1947

FROM: HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, OTTAWA
 TO: SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DOMINION AFFAIRS, LONDON

SAVING TELEGRAM No. 5

6th January, 1947

Your Saving telegram No. 152 of the 28th November.

Recruitment for Palestine Police Force.

I have consulted Canadian authorities and, as a result, have come to the conclusion that any recruitment campaign in Canada would not be likely to produce any worth while results.

Commissioner of R.C.M.P. informs me that recruitment for that force is seriously behind and that, in spite of intensive efforts, they have been able to secure less than 300 constables since the end of the war. They have, in fact, had a greater number of applications but these have had to be rejected mainly on account of the marriage bar, which would also presumably apply to Palestine. As apart from height qualification (R.C.M.P. requirement is 5'8") conditions of appointment for police here and in Palestine are probably similar, it does not seem likely that any of the rejected candidates would be suitable for Palestine. Director of Personnel in the R.C.M.P. gave it as his considered opinion that even with intensive publicity campaign most we could hope for would be 20 to 30 candidates and from the political standpoint there might well be difficulties here in any considerable publicity.

out

I regret that I cannot hold/better prospects but sheer fact is that owing to the present prosperous conditions in agriculture and industry candidates are just not coming forward for police or Armed Services.

cg

Copy to:-

C. O. Under Sec. of State

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2

E

4

E 4919

1947

PALESTINE

9 JUN

Registry Number E4919/782/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. M. Scrivener,
Damascus.

Dated 204

Received in Registry } 7 June
9 June

Apprehension of Palestine Police Officer.

Police officer and two companions have left Palestine for Syria without permission after disappearance of Jewish terrorist. Palestine officer sent to contact them who agreed to return but they have since withdrawn agreement and asked for Political asylum.

Last Paper.

E 782

References.

(Minutes.)

copy c.o. (Mr. T. Smith)
[Signature]

Are very peculiar

[Signature]
(S.E. CABLE)
10/6

John Smith
June 10

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S/ Hooper Smith.
B.O.
✓ June 11

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

4993

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference:

EO

371

61871

E 4919

R 5

Cypher/OTP

JUN

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Scrivener
No. 204

D. 7.55 a.m. 9th June, 1947.

R.10.15 a.m. 9th June, 1947.

7th June, 1947.

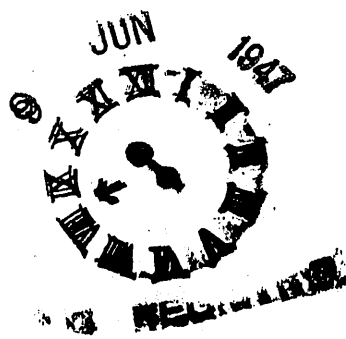
///

IMPORTANT

SECRET

His Majesty's Legation has recently been engaged in delicate question of a Palestine police officer and two companions who left Palestine for Syria without permission as a result of a train of circumstances attendant to the disappearance of a Jewish terrorist. After the legation had, at the behest of Palestinian Government asked for the apprehension of officer, the latter agreed to return voluntarily with Palestine officer sent here to make contact with them. Consequent reversing of Administrative machine has been tricky having regard to the fact that the officer did a good deal of talking so that frankness with Syrians was essential, and to Syrian sympathy with any opposition to Jewish activity. I have had to see the President in person and solution was in sight when officers suddenly withdrew their agreement to return and demanded political asylum. I will report further as necessary.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]



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Reference:

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E 4993 6
11 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E4993/782/31
TELEGRAM FROM
No. M. S. 10000
Dated Damascus
Received in Registry } 209
10 June 1947
11 - - -

Apprehension of Palestine Police officer.
As per Damascus tel 204 (E4919/782/31)
Major Faris has made written statement
to Syrian Police admitting that he might
be put on trial for murder of Jewish terrorist
and definitely asking for Political Asylum
in Syria. Given further comments.

Last Paper.

4919

References.

(Minutes.)

copy c.c. (Mr. Tufford Smith)

[Signature]
(S.E. HUBLE)
12/6

The Co. will comment if they
think fit but I expect they will
leave it to Jerusalem

D. S. 10000
June 12

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Tufford Smith.
B.V.
June 13

[Signature]
12/6

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
7/6 1947

(Index.)

[Signature]
12/6/47

Next Paper.

5140

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61871

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Cypher/OTP.

E 4993

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

E
7

JUN

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Scrivener.
No. 209.
10th June 1947.

D. 4.45 p.m. 10th June 1947.
R. 9.15 p.m. 10th June 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem.

W:W:W:W:W

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

My telegram No.4 [sic ? 204].

Major Farr[gp. undec.], officer principally concerned, has made a written statement to the Syrian police (which is being kept secret) admitting that he might be put on trial for the murder of a Jewish terrorist and definitely asking for political asylum in Syria. Colonel Ferguson, officer sent here by the Palestine Government to make contact, has again tried unsuccessfully to induce Farr[gp. undec.] to return voluntarily.

2. In these circumstances the President of the Republic has stated that he desires to do nothing to embarrass His Majesty's Government and has offered the following alternative proposals:

(a) to regard the Legation's demand for the arrest as withdrawn and to release Farr[gp. undec.]

(b) to compel Farr[gp. undec.] by force to return to Palestine under escort.

(c) to regard Legation's demand for arrest as maintained, and to allow extradition proceedings to take their course.

Palestine Government are now considering these alternatives.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

JUN 10 1947

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FO

371

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4

E

E 5140

1947

PALESTINE

16 JUN

8

Registry Number } E5140/782/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. M. Derwenes
Damasus.

Dated } 215.
Received in Registry } 12 June
16 -

Apprehension of Palstinian Police Officer.
Refer Damasus tel 209 (E4993/782/31)
Inasmuch that of ed from Jerusalem. Have
decided to apply for extradition in ordinary way
before this is done have to arrange for
Farran B.D. of Her Majesty to see him and
persuade him to return. Given views of Damasus.

Last Paper.

4993

References.

(Minutes.)

copy c.a. (Mr. Trufford Smith)

[Signature]
C.I.E. CABLE

16/6

D. S. Davis
June 16

(Print.)

(How disposed of)

8. Croftend Litch
B.D.
June 18

[Signature]
17/6

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
18/6

(Index)

[Signature]
18/6

Next Paper.

E5399

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61871**

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E 5140
16 JUN

E. 9

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Scrivener
No. 215

D. 7.25 a.m. 13th June 1947

12th June 1947.

R. 10.35 a.m. 13th June 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem.

YYYY

My telegram No. 209.

4993/780/21

Following received from Jerusalem.

[Begins]:

Fergusson delivered your message and we have decided to apply for extradition in the ordinary way. Before this is done however we hope to arrange for Farran's Commanding Officer Third Hussars to see him and persuade him to return.

[Ends].

From the point of view of this post there is no (repeat no) objection to the course proposed. I am therefore informing the Syrian Government accordingly and asking them to grant the necessary facilities for the visit of the officer above mentioned.

3. I have warned the Palestine Government that in the circumstances the Syrian Government would almost certainly regard the case as political and refuse to extradite.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

1947
JUN 16 11 11 AM

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Reference:

FO

371

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E 5646 10

1947

PALESTINE

30 JUN

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 5646/782/51

Agitation
Namasces

20 June
30

Extradition from Syria R.A. Farnan.
Copy of letter to P.O. for Palestine from
C.A.F. Dundas no 12. of June 17. stating
that Major Farnan has agreed to return
voluntarily to Palestine to inform that
he crossed the Syria - Palestine border 17
June.

Last Paper.

5799

(Minutes.)

copy f.o.

2673.1/2

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/8.0

✓ July 4

(Action completed.)

(Ind.)

J. E. M. 4/7

[Signature]

Next Paper.

5931

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61871

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COPY/

British Legation,

12

No. 12
(48/20/47)

Damascus.

17th June, 1947.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch of 13th June concerning the extradition from Syria of Roy Alexander Farran, I have the honour to report that at mid-day on 15th June I was informed by the Director General of the Syrian Police that the above mentioned Roy Alexander Farran had signed, in the presence of officers of the Syrian Police Force, a proces verbale stating his willingness to return voluntarily to Palestine. He later visited me in my office and confirmed his desire to return voluntarily. I am informed that he crossed the Syrian-Palestine frontier in the company of two British officers at 9 a.m. on 17th June.

2. I return herewith the extradition dossier forwarded to me with your despatch under reference.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

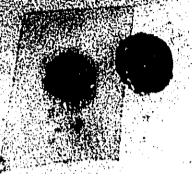
(Sgd) C.A.F. Dundas.

His Excellency,
The High Commissioner for Palestine,
Government Offices,
Jerusalem.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61871**

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E

13

E 8513

1947

PALESTINE

15 SEP 1947

Registry Number

E 8513/782/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. in Beaumont

Dated Damaras

Received in Registry

402
13 Sept
15

Case of Major Farnat.
Refer Damaras tel 204 (E 4919/782/31)
Immediately following tel contains
list of message from P.O. Palestine.
Recommends course to be taken.

Last Paper.

7276

(Minutes.)

See E 8514 - action
JB Sept 23

References.

In P.P. Damaras tel 409 19/9
JB Sept 25

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

4/ No admission - B.O.
by Mr West Sept 22
4/ In P.P. as above.
Sept - 24

(Action completed.)

SLM 626/9

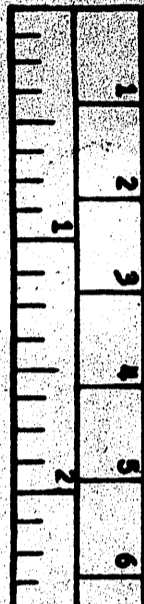
(Index)

19/9/47

Next Paper.

8514

32008 F.O.P.



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Reference: FO 371 / 61871

E 8513

14

CYPHER/CTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Beaumont.
No. 402.

D: 9.15 a.m. 14th September, 1947.

13th September, 1947. R: 1.15 p.m. 14th September, 1947.

@@@ @@@ @@@

My telegram No. 204. Major Farran.

My immediately following telegram contains text of a message from the General Officer Commanding Palestine. I have answered that I must refer to you but I thought you would wish me to claim the privilege.

2. I would recommend this course for the following reasons.

a) Mr. Male is the only member of the senior staff who was here at the time. He did not deal with the case directly.

b) Obviously wrong to give the court some documents while withholding others. To give all might embarrass the Government of Palestine and would involve the head of the Syrian State.

c) In order to arrive at an amicable way out of the affair [? grp. emtd.] personally intervened. It should also be remembered that Farran made a false statement to the Syrian Police, the contents of which we do not know.

3. If the Commander-in-Chief's defence merely is to prove Farran returned voluntarily to Palestine either Male or I (basing myself on [grp. undec.]) would gladly answer an interrogation subject to your [grp. undec. ? comment if] procedure allows of this. I have so informed the General Officer Commanding.

4. I should be grateful for instructions.

SEP
1947

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61871**

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12

E

E 8514

PALESTINE

SEP 16

1947

Registry Number } E8514/782/31

TELEGRAM FROM
No. *tel Beaumont*

Dated *Damascus*

Received in Registry } *403*
12 Sept
15 -

Case of Mayor Farran
Refer Damascus tel 402 (E8513/782/31)
Now transmits text of message from
J. B. Palatka. referred to.

Last Paper.

8513

(Minutes.)

2 P.P.

References.

I attach a draft tel. in
reply agreed with CO. This is
really a matter for the Govt.
of Palestine to decide

(Print.)

Mr Vincent Evans ^{W.A.G.} 20/9 *Mrs. Baird*
Sept. 23

(How disposed of.)

8/ Abalteson. C.O.
Sept 22.

tel, Damascus
489
Sept 23.

6/ Abalteson. C.O.
Sept 25
P.T.O.

After consultation with legal adviser
(Mr. H. J. Maurice) I have added a passage to
cover point in para. 2(b) of Damascus tel; no:
402.

Tel. sent
23/9
23/9

(Action completed.)

J. C. M. 26/9

(Index)

[Signature]
26/9

Next Paper.

E8770

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO

371

61871

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164

8/ 2, Bagin,
Lord Russell
M.O. 1/c
Judge Advocate Gen's
Office.
per mess.
Sept 21

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FO

371

61871

[The text of this telegram must first be paraphrased if communicated to persons outside British Government service or if transmitted in a cypher system other than O.T.P.] 17

Cypher /OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 8514

Mr. Beaumont
No. 403

D. 9.25 a.m. 14th September, 1947.

13th September, 1947.

R. 1.15 p.m. 14th September, 1947.

MM

Following is text referred to in my immediately preceding telegram.

Farran's solicitors have written asking for a representative of the British Legation in Syria at (? "trial" omitted) "to produce all telegrams, letters, memoranda whether original or duplicates passing between the British Mission in Syria and the Palestine Government between the dates of June 3rd and June 18th, 1947, and relating to the accused".

2. I understand that the Palestine Government consider these documents to be subject to (sic) state privilege from production at the trial.

3. Please confirm by immediate telegram whether you will [gp. undec.] privilege on these (?conditions) (? "or" omitted) not.

4. The matter is urgent as the trial is likely to take place in the very near future.



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Reference:

FO

371

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Registry
No. E5514/782/31

~~TOP SECRET~~
Secret.
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

J.G.S.B.

OUT - FILE

F.O., 24/9

23rd September 1947.

Despatched 11.20 P.M.

Draft.
DAMASCUS.

IMMEDIATE.

Your telegrams Nos. 402 and 403 of September 13th; Major Farran.

Telegram.

No. 489
(Date) Sept 23

Repeat to:
Jerusalem.
(immediate)

The Colonial Office have advised the Government of Palestine that a decision on the production of correspondence between them and the British Mission in Syria, the contents of which are not known in London, must be taken locally. The Colonial Office have decided not to claim privilege for a similar document in the custody of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Government of Palestine have agreed.

2. The general principles governing a decision by the responsible Minister as to whether privilege should be claimed are as follows. It is not enough that the Minister for a given Department does not want to have the documents produced. The Minister ought not to take the responsibility of withholding production except in cases where the public interest would otherwise be damaged, for example, where disclosure would be injurious to national defence or to good diplomatic relations or where the practice of keeping a class of documents secret is necessary for the proper functioning of the public service. These principles are based on a judgement by Lord Simon in the House of Lords - Duncan v. Cammell Laird & Co. Ltd., in 1942. ^{the} judgement referred to was/

Co. agree

~~Ex Gratia~~
~~Code~~
Cypher.

Distribution:—
Departmental No. 1.

Mr V. Evans ^{23/9}
first
13 Sept. 23

Copies to:—
~~Mr. Mathieson~~
Mr. Mathieson.
Colonial Office.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61871

to was given in a civil action. In a criminal case where a man is on trial for his life the reasons for withholding documents must be particularly strong.

3. In the light of the above principles I must ask ~~the Government of Palestine and you~~ and the Govt. of Palestine to use discretion in taking a ~~local~~ locally decision, since you alone know the contents of the documents in question. *In the case of documents ~~the~~ production of which, while*

4. With CO. concurrence this tel. is being repeated to the Officer Administering the Govt. of Palestine.

*P.P.
13/4*

unobjectionable from point of view of British interests might be embarrassing to Syrian Govt. Such documents should only be produced in camera (if that is possible under ~~court-martial~~ ~~parliamentary~~ procedure) or with prior agreement of Syrian Govt.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

18A

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61871**



Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W. 1.

enter
E
22

30 July 24, 1947.

E 8770

75015/99/47.

Dear Beeley:

*not rec'd
in CB*

I enclose a copy of a despatch from the High Commissioner for Palestine with enclosures concerning the employment by the military authorities of supernumerary police recruited on their behalf by the Palestine Police Force in Palestine.

You will see that this correspondence relates to a proposal that the military authorities should take over the sole responsibility for the recruitment of personnel for employment by M.M. Forces as static guards at their installations, etc., in Palestine and that a new force should be raised to be called the "Palestine Guard Force" in which the present supernumerary police employed by the military would be embodied.

In discussing this proposal the War Office have raised the point that the establishment of such a force in Palestine at this juncture might lead to allegations that we were pre-judging the issue now under consideration by United Nations. Our feeling here is that there is no substance in this particular "hare". The transfer of this force to the military would be purely a matter of administration: in fact, the personnel in question would continue to carry out their present military

/guard

H. BEELEY, Esq., C.B.E.

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FO

371

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14

E

23

1947

PALESTINE

E 9194

4 OCT 1947

Registry Number

9194/782/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M. Khandas

Dated

Received in Registry

Damascus

32 Saving

29 Sept

4 Oct

Case of Abayas Farhan.

Refer 2.0 (E 489 (E 8514/782/31)) It would be relevant to make it clear to the court should the question arise that it is the fault of Politicians and not Legation or H.M.G. which decided initially to place privilege in this case when a man is on trial for his life.

Last Paper.

8770

References.

(Minutes.)

copy to C.O.
Please attach ref.

[Signature] 4/10

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, B.V.
Oct 7

(Action completed.)

G.L.H. 9/10

(Index.)

[Signature]
10/10/48

Next Paper.

10716

32003 F.O.P.

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Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

E 24

FROM DAMASCUS TO GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE 94

Mr. Dundas.
No. 89.
29th September 1947.

R. 10.5 a.m. 3rd October 1947

Repeated to: Foreign Office, No. 52 Saving.

IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Major Farran.

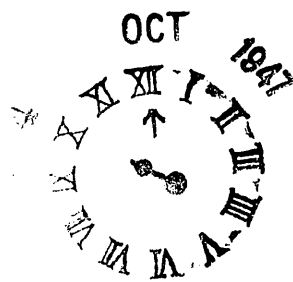
Your telegram No. 1285 [of 27th September 1947].

On the assumption that in deciding to claim privilege you have given due weight to Lord Simon's ruling and Mr. Bevin's views as made clear in Foreign Office telegram No. 489 [of 25th September 1947] to me, it would be relevant to make it clear to the Court, should the question arise, that it is the Government of Palestine and not this Legation or His Majesty's Government which decided initially to claim privilege in this case where a man is on trial for his life.

E-8514

Please pass to MILPAL.

W:W:W:W:W



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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61871

15

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10716

17 NOV

25

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E10716/782/31

FROM

P.A.

No.

X6-601

Dated

Kingsmill

Received in Registry

12 Nov
17

Palestine Police Force Advertisements.
Lt Col Kingsmill asked Ad's office to inquire that the advertisements for recruits to the Palestine Police Force still state that the minimum age of recruitment is 18 whereas it has recently been raised to 19 years and six months. Mr. Rex Williams, the new minimum age is mentioned in all press advertisements placed since the change was made. Photographs for advertisements by parties, all of which were exhibited before the change had now expired and are not being retained.

Last Paper.

9194

(Minutes.)

10 NOV. 17

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

L.A.M. 17/11

(Index.)

15
17/11/48

Next Paper.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO

371

61871

EASTERN

Enter E

26

Parliamentary Question

E

10

*129. Lieutenant-Colonel Kingsmill.—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he is aware that the advertisements for recruits to the Palestine Police Force still state that the minimum age of recruitment is 18 whereas it has recently been raised to 19 years and six months; and what steps he is taking to publicise this alteration in the minimum age. [Wednesday 12th November.]

Yeovil.

RECEIVED 12 NOV 1947
REP. ...

10716
17 NOV

I have spoken to C.O. and to Miss Jones about this P.Q., which will be transferred to the C.O.

Jr 5/11

PALESTINE POLICE FORCE (ADVERTISEMENTS)

73. Lieut.-Colonel Kingsmill asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the advertisements for recruits to the Palestine Police Force still state that the minimum age of recruitment is 18 whereas it has recently been raised to 19 years and six months; and what steps he is taking to publicise this alteration in the minimum age.

Mr. Rees-Williams: The new minimum age is mentioned in all Press advertisements placed since the change was made. Contracts for advertisement by posters, all of which were exhibited before the change, have now expired and are not being renewed.

(75)



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SECRETARY OF STATE
PALESTINE POLICE FORCE
27
END
pro

**PALESTINE POLICE FORCE
(ADVERTISEMENTS)**

73. **Lieut.-Colonel Kingsmill** asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the advertisements for recruits to the Palestine Police Force still state that the minimum age of recruitment is 18 whereas it has recently been raised to 19 years and six months; and what steps he is taking to publicise this alteration in the minimum age.

Mr. Rees-Williams: The new minimum age is mentioned in all Press advertisements placed since the change was made. Contracts for advertisement by posters, all of which were exhibited before the change, have now expired and are not being renewed.

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